



RESOLUTION

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS - A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

By: Jenkins, Reich, Gordon, Fletcher, Cunningham, Ellison,
Warsame, Goodman, Cano, Bender, Schroeder, Johnson, and Palmisano

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1968 FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING ACT AND DECLARING JUNE 21, 2018, HOUSING EQUITY IN MINNEAPOLIS DAY.

- Whereas: Minneapolis has always been home to people of different races, ethnicities, and economic backgrounds; and
- Whereas: Beginning in 1910 racially-restrictive covenants began to be placed on property titles and homes in Minneapolis and within a few years, large swaths of the city were reserved for the exclusive use of people of the white race; and
- Whereas: In the 1930s, the Federal Housing Administration's Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC) linked race to lending practices, the federal government commissioned color-coded maps that delineated mortgage risks in different neighborhood leading to the practice known as "redlining," which dried up access to capital in neighborhoods that included people of color; and
- Whereas: By 1940, most of the city's neighborhoods were off limits to African Americans to purchase homes, pushing them into specific areas; and
- Whereas: Residents of the Old Southside and near Northside built supportive communities that were bound together by racial solidarity and racism; and
- Whereas: Efforts to end racial discrimination in housing included adopting state legislation outlawing racially restrictive covenants in 1953 and fair housing legislation in 1961, and community campaigns such as the Greater Minneapolis Interfaith Fair Housing Program; and
- Whereas: As a culmination of the national civil rights movement and in the wake of the murder of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, in 1968 the United States Congress passed the Fair Housing Act to reverse decades of residential discrimination and segregation and usher in a new era of housing equity and racial justice, including in Minneapolis; and
- Whereas: The 2008 global mortgage crisis further decimated African American homeownership and housing security, by targeting African Americans and other communities of color with predatory lending; and
- Whereas: In this year of 2018, Minneapolis residents face housing disparities as challenging as those of 50 years ago, with too many people not having safe, dignified housing, tenants of color being exploited, and homeownership rates for African-American households still among the lowest in the nation; and
- Whereas: In Minneapolis and across the region, policy makers and community leaders are making affordable housing a top priority, and are working toward inclusive, community-centered processes to address the true barriers to fair housing; and
- Whereas: Tenants and community organizers are mobilizing against unfair housing practices by utilizing tools stemming from the Fair Housing Act, but also building power on their own terms and pressing for solutions based on community needs; and
- Whereas: Over a dozen organizations are coming together to present *Racism, Rent, and Real Estate: Fair Housing Reframed*, a series of events exploring the past, present and future of housing equity in Minneapolis, which will be kicked off at Sabathani Community Center on Thursday, June 21; and
- Whereas: The housing equity events will educate Minneapolitans about our largely unrecognized history of housing discrimination; and
- Whereas: The housing equity events will engage and surface knowledge from community members who have been impacted by housing challenges and discrimination; and
- Whereas: The housing equity events will connect past racist policies and practices to current racial biases that impact housing; and
- Whereas: The housing equity events will explore the benefits and the harms incurred in the name of the Fair Housing Act; and

Whereas: The housing equity events will broaden the discussion about housing by humanizing the issue and making it current and accessible to real people's lives; and

Whereas: The housing equity events will catalyze conversations that change the grand narrative and build political will; and

Whereas: The housing equity events will translate awareness into action;

—NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED—

That the Mayor and City Council do hereby declare Thursday, June 21, 2018, as Housing Equity in Minneapolis Day.

Passed this the Fifteenth Day of June, 2018

Lisa Bender, President of the Council

Approved:

Jacob Frey, Mayor

Attest:

Casey Joe Carl, City Clerk